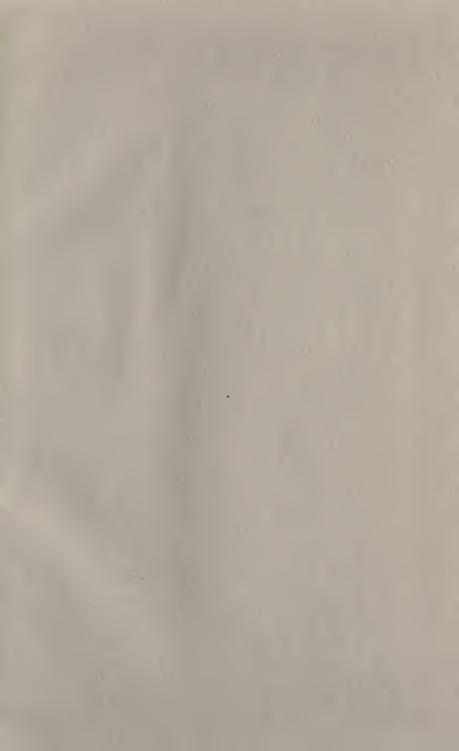


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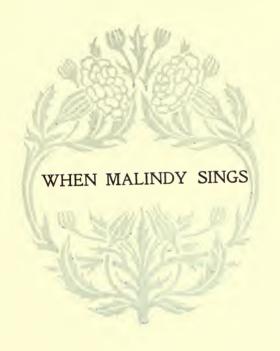














WHEN MALINDY SINGS

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR



ILLUSTRATED WITH
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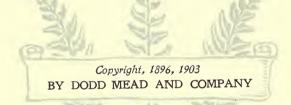


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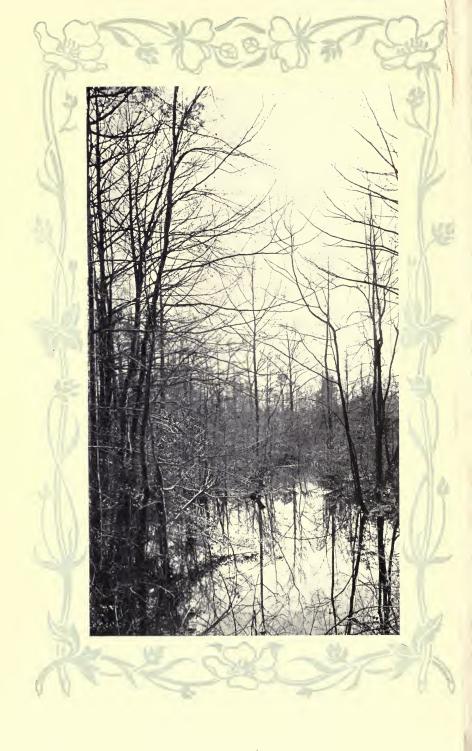
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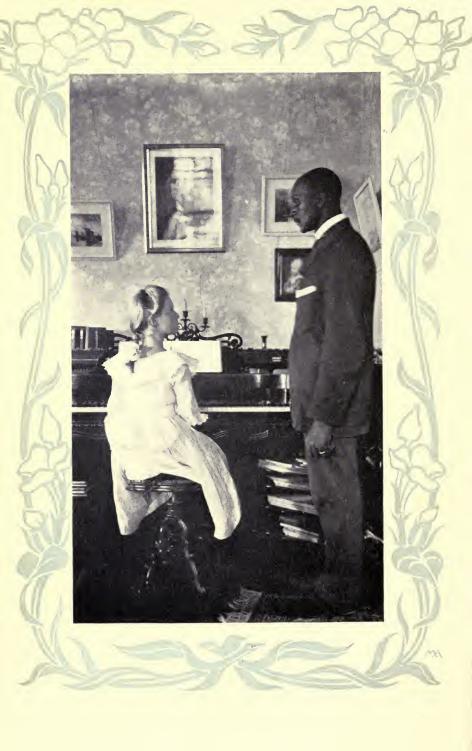
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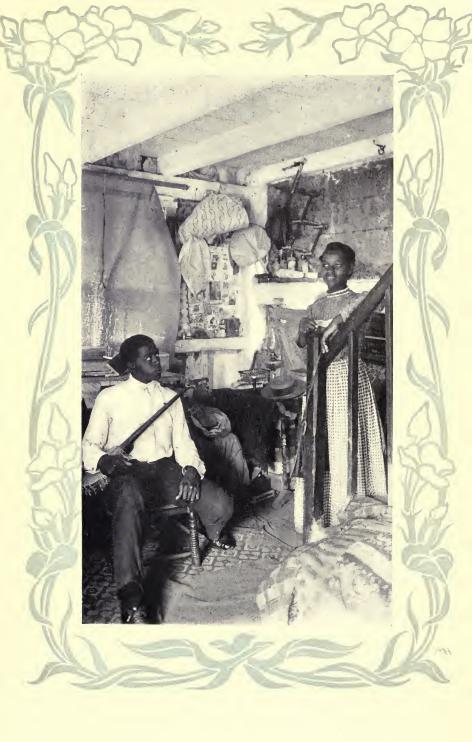
WHEN MALINDY SINGS



G'WAY an' quit dat noise, Miss Lucy—
Put dat music book away;
What 's de use to keep on tryin'?
Ef you practise twell you're gray,
You cain't sta't no notes a-flyin'
Lak de ones dat rants and rings
F'om de kitchen to de big woods
When Malindy sings.

You ain't got de nachel o'gans
Fu' to make de soun' come right,
You ain't got de tu'ns an' twistin's
Fu' to make it sweet an' light.
Tell you one thing now, Miss Lucy,
An' I'm tellin' you fu' true,
When hit comes to raal right singin',
'T' ain't no easy thing to do.

Easy 'nough fu' folks to hollah,
Lookin' at de lines an' dots,
When dey ain't no one kin sence it,
An' de chune comes in, in spots;
But fu' real melojous music,
Dat jes' strikes yo' hea't and clings,
Jes' you stan' an' listen wif me
When Malindy sings.



Ain't you nevah hyeahd Malindy?

Blessed soul, tek up de cross!

Look hyeah, ain't you jokin', honey?

Well, you don't know whut you los'.

Y' ought to hyeah dat gal a-wa'blin',

Robins, la'ks, an' all dem things,

Heish dey moufs an' hides dey faces

When Malindy sings.

Fiddlin' man jes' stop his fiddlin',
Lay his fiddle on de she'f;
Mockin'-bird quit tryin' to whistle,
'Cause he jes' so shamed hisse'f.
Folks a-playin' on de banjo
Draps dey fingahs on de strings—
Bless yo' soul—fu'gits to move 'em,
When Malindy sings.

She jes' spreads huh mouf and hollahs,
"Come to Jesus," twell you hyeah
Sinnahs' tremblin' steps and voices,
Timid-lak a-drawin' neah;
Den she tu'ns to "Rock of Ages,"
Simply to de cross she clings,
An' you fin' yo' teahs a-drappin'
When Malindy sings.

Who dat says dat humble praises
Wif de Master nevah counts?
Heish yo' mouf, I hyeah dat music,
Ez hit rises up an' mounts—
Floatin' by de hills an' valleys,
Way above dis buryin' sod,
Ez hit makes its way in glory
To de very gates of God!

Oh, hit's sweetah dan de music
Of an edicated band;
An' hit's dearah dan de battle's
Song o' triumph in de lan'.
It seems holier dan evenin'
When de solemn chu'ch bell rings,
Ez I sit an' ca'mly listen
While Malindy sings.

Towsah, stop dat ba'kin', hyeah me!

Mandy, mek dat chile keep still;

Don't you hyeah de echoes callin'

F'om de valley to de hill?

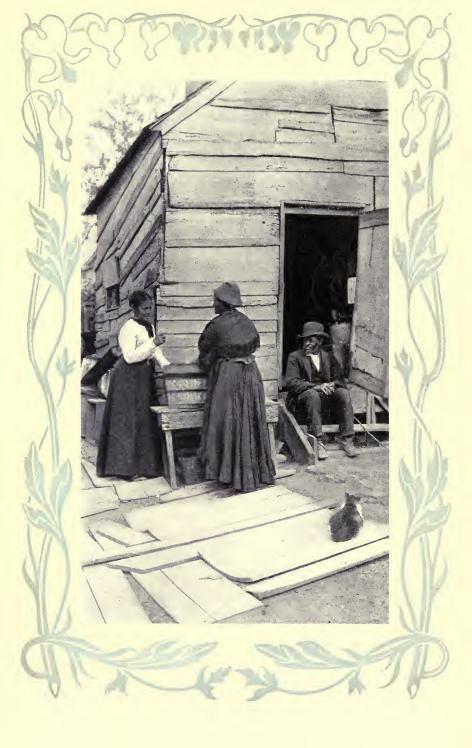
Let me listen, I can hyeah it,

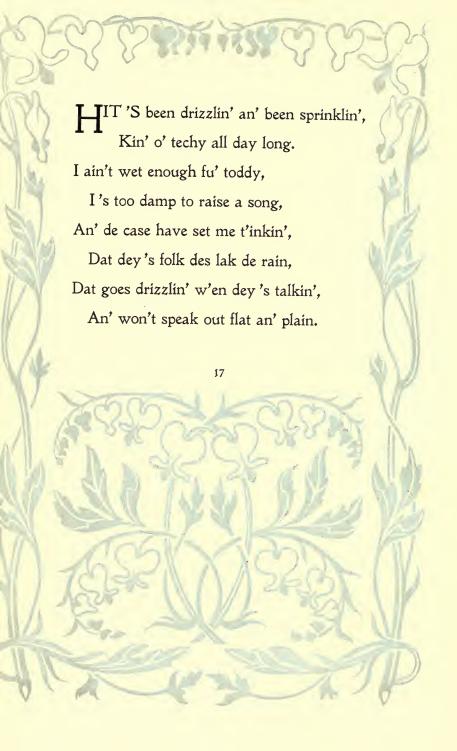
Th'oo de bresh of angel's wings,

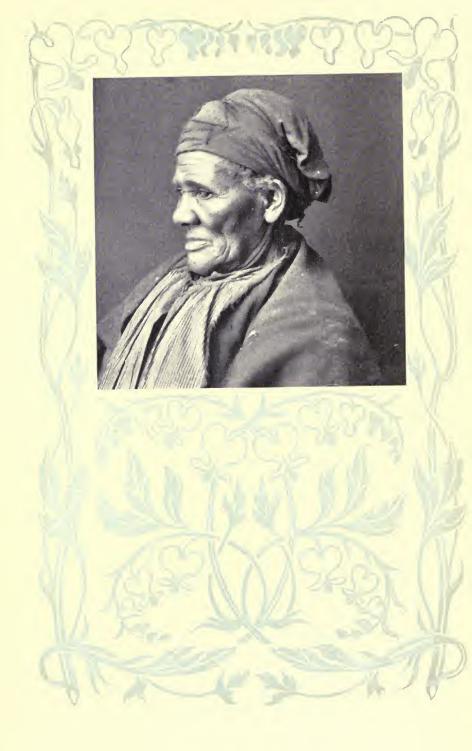
Sof' an' sweet, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,"

Ez Malindy sings.



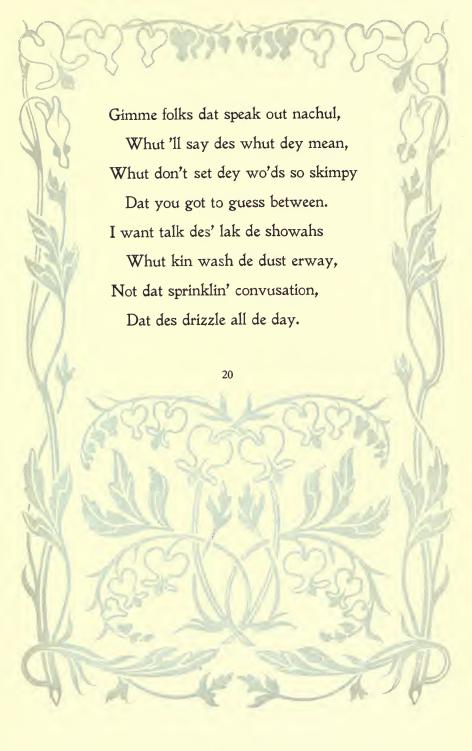






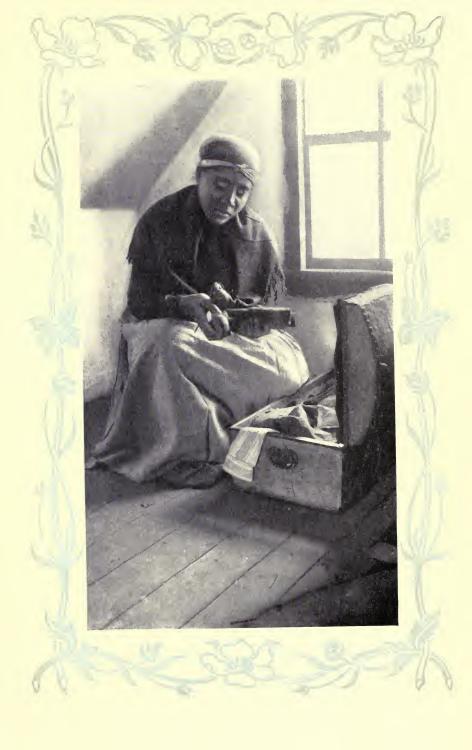
Ain't you nevah set an' listened
At a body 'splain his min'?
W'en de t'oughts dey keep on drappin'
Was n't big enough to fin'?
Dem 's whut I call drizzlin' people,
Othahs call 'em mealy mouf,
But de fust name hits me bettah,
Case dey nevah tech a drouf.

Dey kin talk from hyeah to yandah,
An' f'om yandah hyeah ergain,
An' dey don' mek no mo' 'pression,
Den dis powd'ry kin' o' rain.
En yo' min' is dry ez cindahs,
Er a piece o' kindlin' wood,
'T ain't no use a-talkin' to 'em,
Fu' dey drizzle ain't no good.





TWO LITTLE BOOTS



Two little boots all rough an' wo',
Two little boots!

Laws, I's kissed 'em times befo',
Dese little boots!

Seems de toes a-peepin' thoo
Dis hyeah hole an' sayin' "Boo!"

Evah time dey looks at you—
Dese little boots.

Membah de time he put 'em on,

Dese little boots;

Riz an' called fu' 'em by dawn,

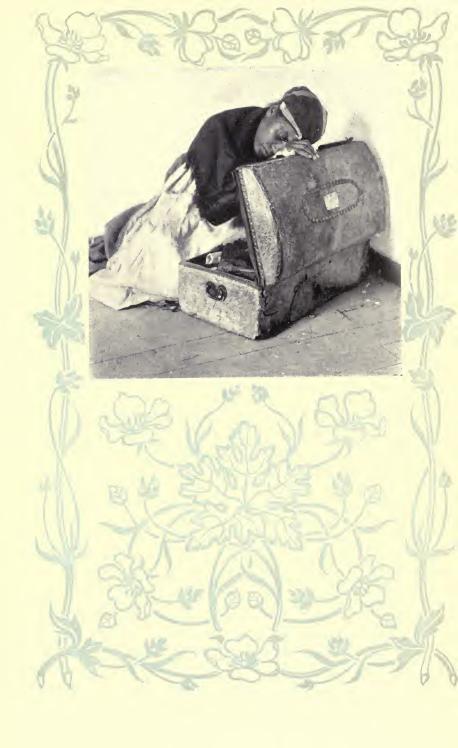
Dese little boots;

Den he tromped de livelong day,

Laffin' in his happy way,

Evaht'ing he had to say,

"My little boots!"



Kickin' de san' de whole day long,

Dem little boots;

Good de cobblah made 'em strong,

Dem little boots!

Rocks was fu' dat baby's use,

I'on had to stan' abuse

W'en you tu'ned dese champeens loose

Dese little boots!

Ust to make de ol' cat cry,

Dese little boots;

Den you walked it mighty high,

Proud little boots!

Ahms akimbo, stan'in' wide,

Eyes a-sayin' "Dis is pride!"

Den de manny-baby stride!

You little boots.

Somehow, you don' seem so gay,
Po' little boots,
Sence yo' ownah went erway,
Po' little boots!
Yo' bright tops don' look so red,
Dese brass tips is dull an' dead;
"Goo'-by," whut de baby said;
Deah little boots!

Ain't you kin' o' sad yo'se'f,
You little boots?

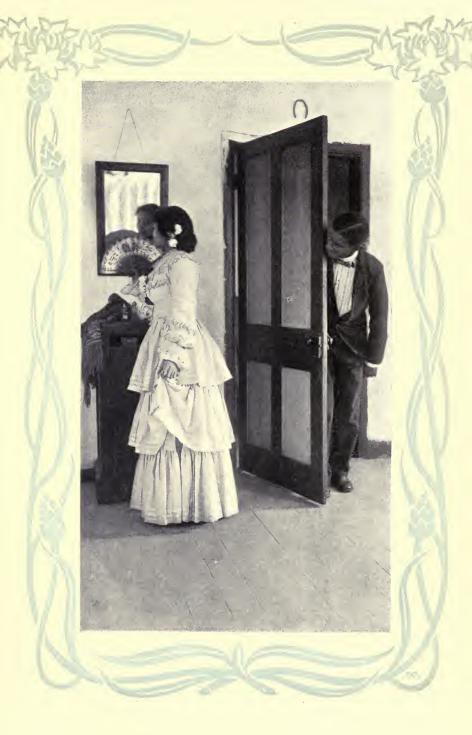
Dis is all his mammy 's lef',
Two little boots.

Sence huh baby gone an' died,
Heav'n itse'f hit seem to hide

Des a little bit inside
Two little boots.



THE LOOKING-GLASS



DINAH stan' befo' de glass,
Lookin' moughty neat,
An' huh purty shadder sass
At huh haid an' feet.
While she sasshay 'roun' an' bow,
Smilin' den an' poutin' now,
An' de lookin'-glass, I 'low
Say: "Now, ain't she sweet?"

All she do, de glass it see,

Hit des see, no mo',

Seems to me, hit ought to be

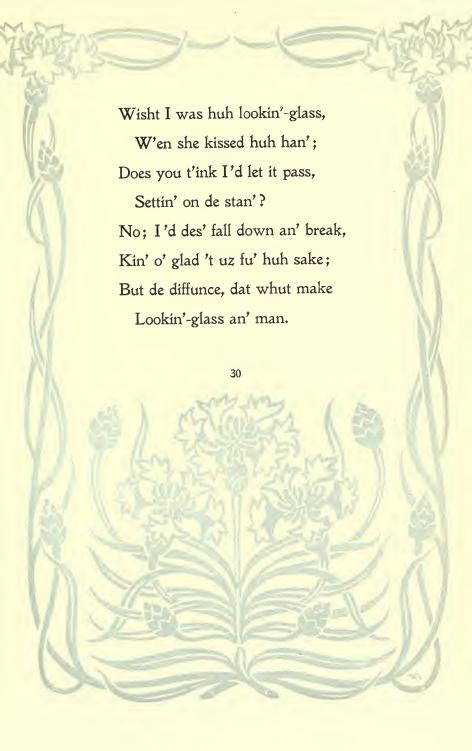
Drappin' on de flo'.

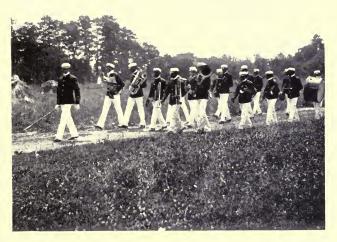
She go w'en huh time git slack,

Kissin' han's an' smilin' back,

Lawsy, how my lips go smack,

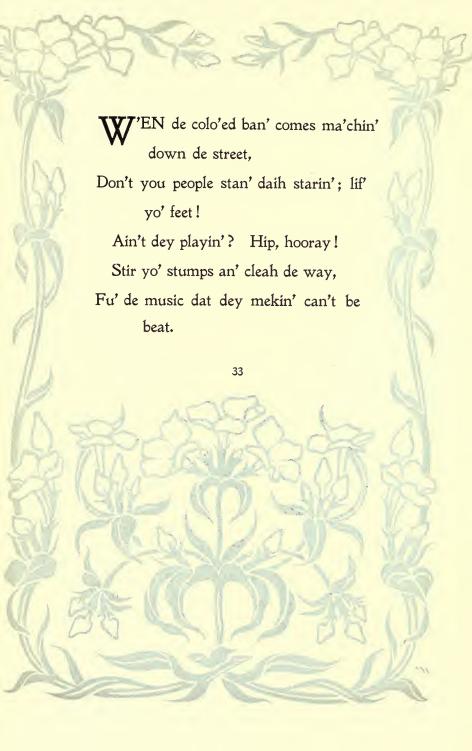
Watchin' at de do'.





THE COLORED BAND







Oh, de major man's a-swingin' of his stick,

An' de pickaninnies crowdin' roun' him thick;

In his go'geous uniform,

He's de lightnin' of de sto'm,

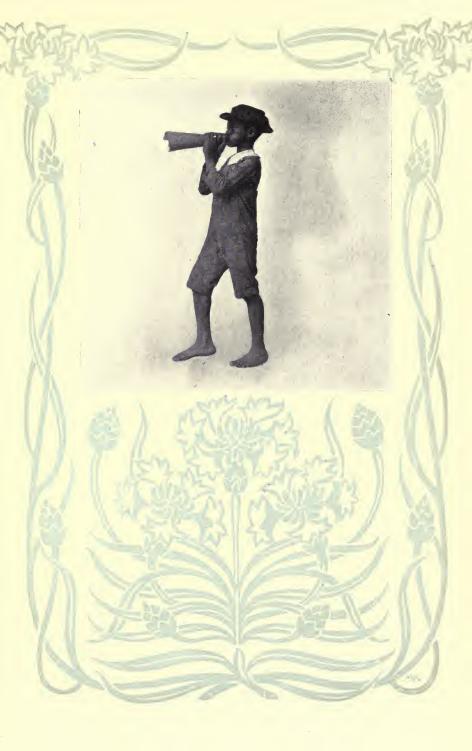
An' de little clouds erroun' look mighty slick.

You kin hyeah a fine perfo'mance w'en de white ban's serenade,

An' dey play dey high-toned music mighty sweet,

But hit's Sousa played in rag-time, an' hit's Rastus on Parade,

W'en de colo'ed ban' comes ma'chin' down de street.



W'en de colo'ed ban' comes ma'chin' down de street

You kin hyeah de ladies all erroun' repeat:

"Ain't dey handsome? Ain't dey gran'?

Ain't dey splendid? Goodness, lan'!

W'y dey 's pu'fect f'om dey fo'heads to dey feet!"

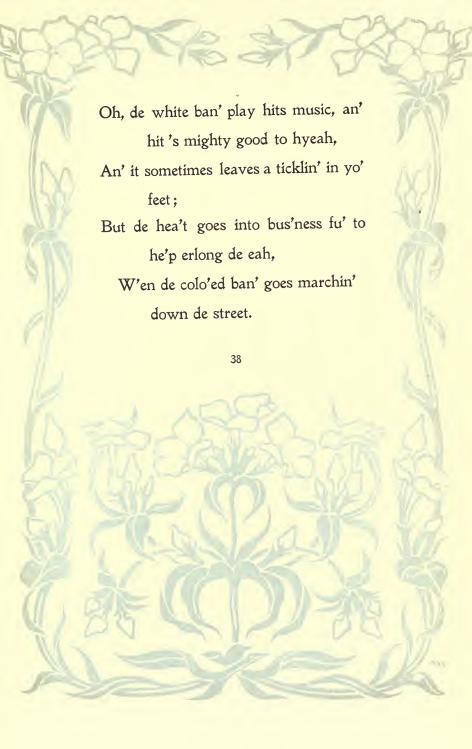
An' sich steppin' to de music down de line,

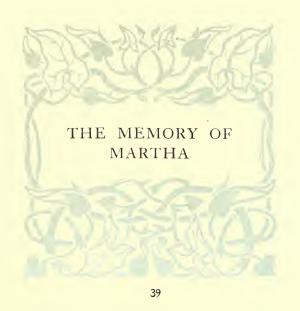
'T ain't de music by itself dat meks it fine,

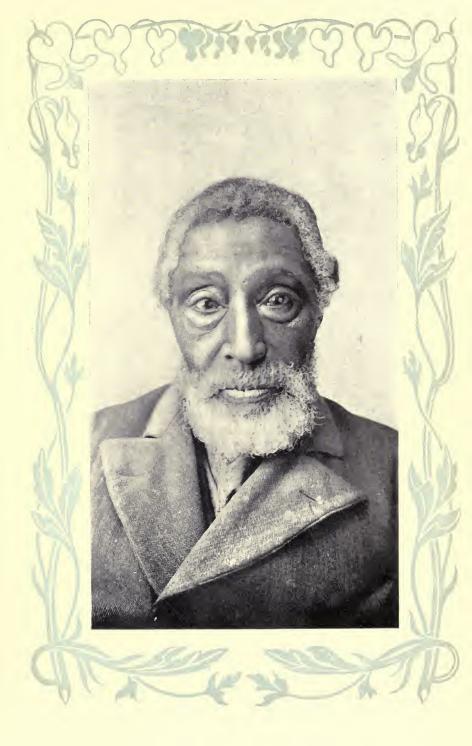
Hit 's de walkin', step by step,

An' de keepin' time wid "Hep,"

Dat it mek a common ditty soun' divine.





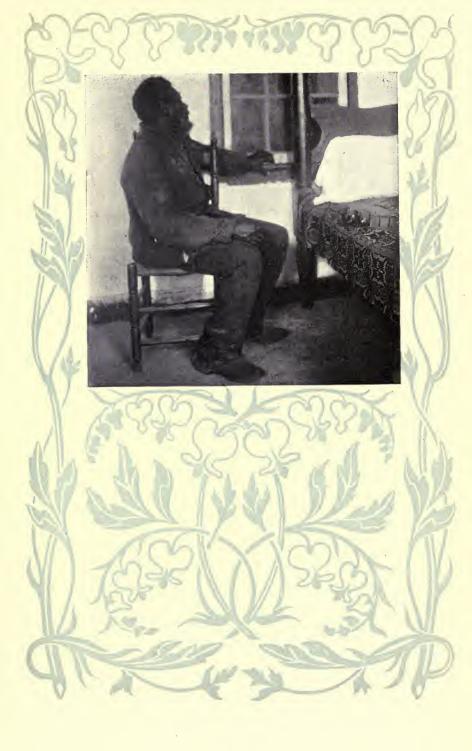


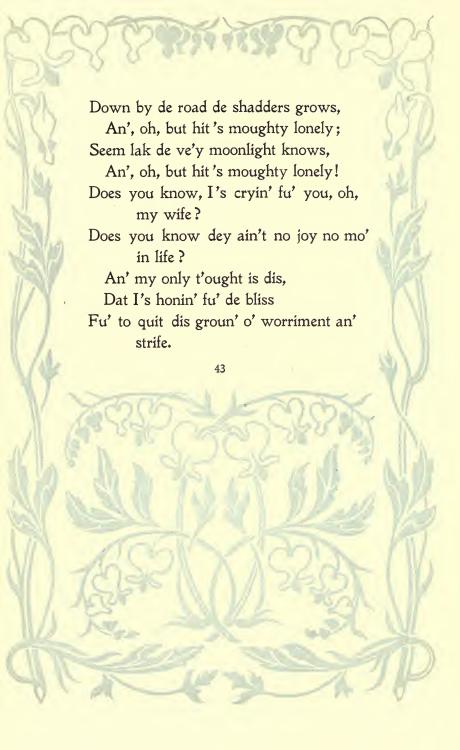
OUT in de night a sad bird moans,
An', oh, but hit's moughty lonely;
Times I kin sing, but mos' I groans,
Fu' oh, but hit's moughty lonely!
Is you sleepin' well dis evenin', Marfy,
deah?

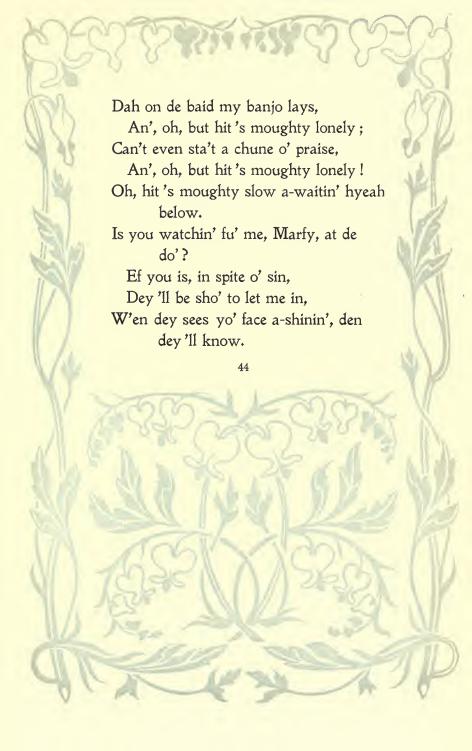
W'en I calls you f'om de cabin, kin you hyeah?

'T ain't de same ol' place to me, Nuffin' 's lak hit used to be.

W'en I knowed dat you was allus some'ers near.

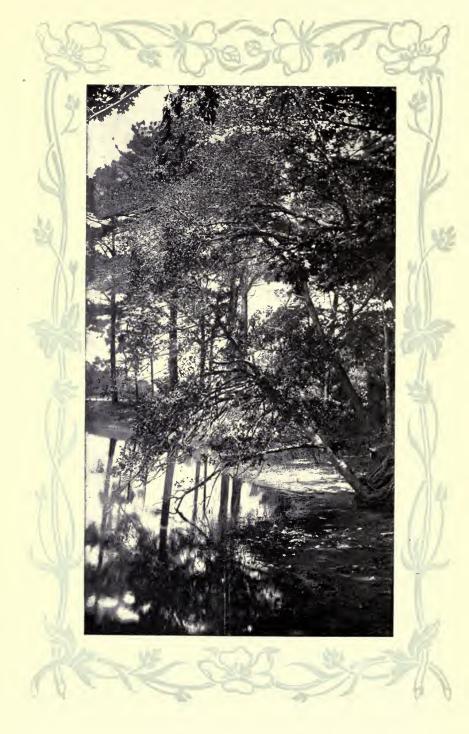






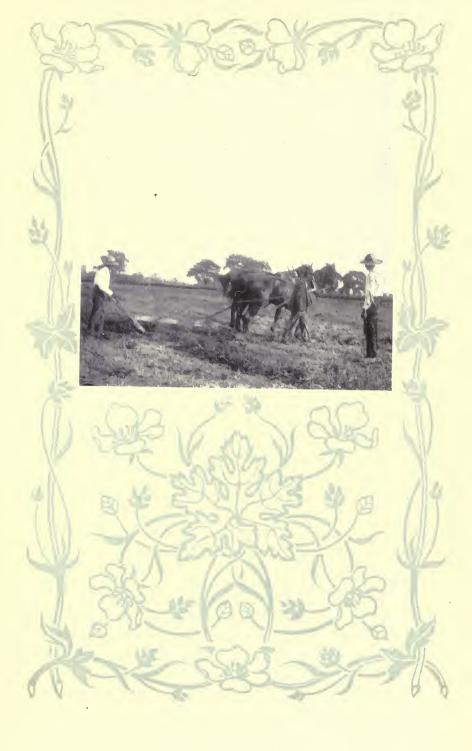


SPRING FEVER



GRASS commence a-comin'
Thoo de thawin' groun',
Evah bird dat whistles
Keepin' noise erroun';
Cain't sleep in de mo'nin',
Case befo' it 's light
Bluebird an' de robin
Done begun to fight.

Bluebird sass de robin,
Robin sass him back,
Den de bluebird scol' him
'Twell his face is black.
Would n' min' de quoilin'
All de mo'nin' long,
'Cept it wakes me early,
Case hit's done in song.



Anybody wo'kin'

Wants to sleep ez late

Ez de folks 'll 'low him,

An' I wish to state

(Co'se dis ain't to scattah,

But 'twix' me an' you),

I could stan' de bedclothes,

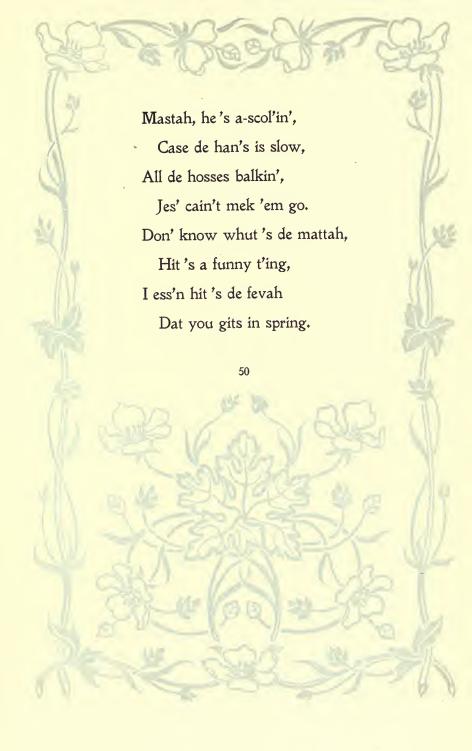
Kin' o' latah, too.

'T ain't my natchul feelin',
Dis hyeah mopin' spell.

I stan's early risin'
Mos'ly moughty well;

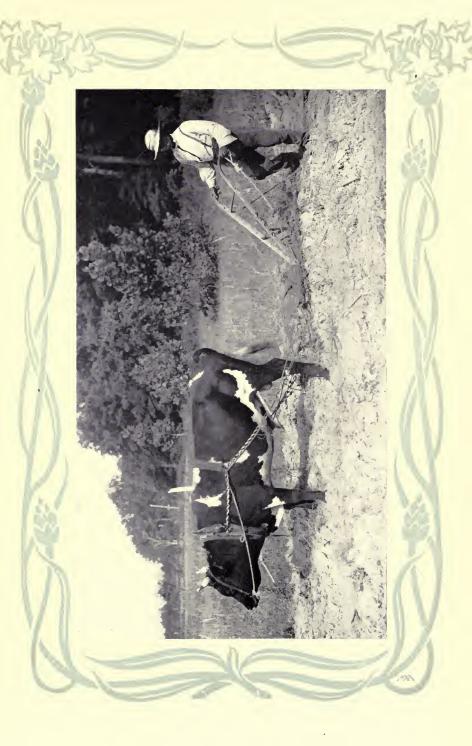
But de ve'y minute,
I feel Ap'il's heat,

Bless yo' soul, de bedclothes
Nevah seemed so sweet.

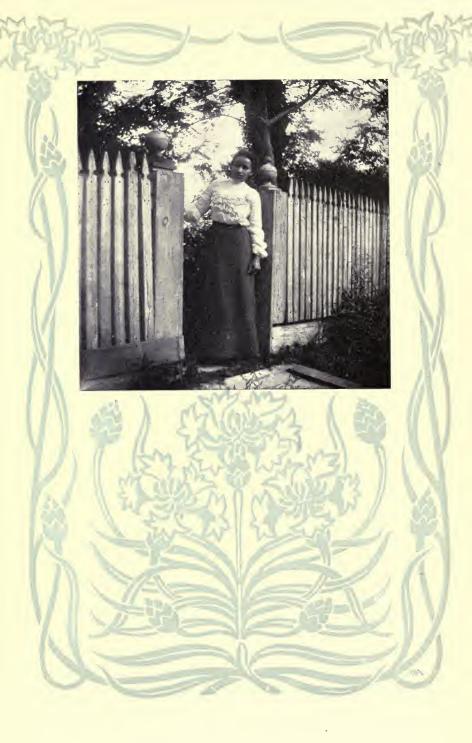


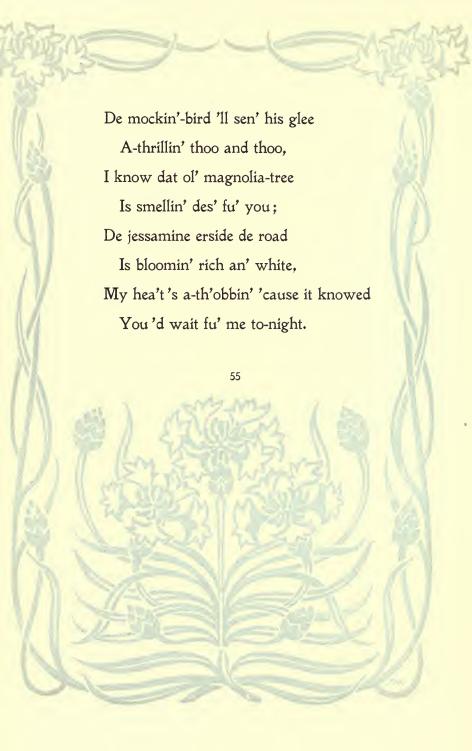


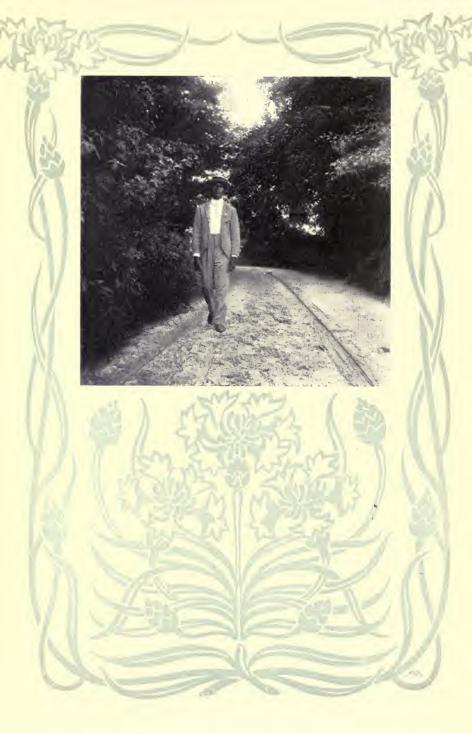
THE TRYST



DE night creep down erlong de lan',
De shadders rise an' shake,
De frog is sta'tin' up his ban',
De cricket is awake;
My wo'k is mos' nigh done, Celes',
To-night I won't be late,
I's hu'yin' thoo my level bes',
Wait fu' me by de gate.







Hit 's lonesome, ain't it, stan'in' thaih
Wid no one nigh to talk?
But ain't dey whispahs in de aih
Erlong de gyahden walk?
Don't somep'n kin' o' call my name,
An' say "he love you bes'"?
Hit 's true, I wants to say de same,
So wait fu' me, Celes'.

Sing somep'n fu' to pass de time,

Outsing de mockin'-bird,

You got de music an' de rhyme,

You beat him wid de word.

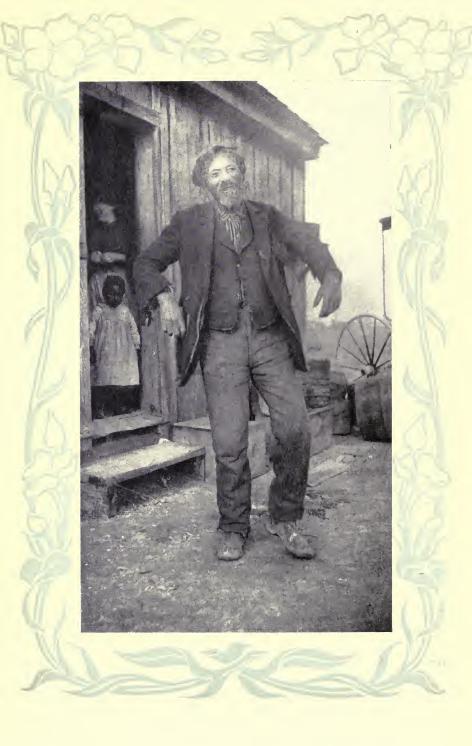
I's comin' now, my wo'k is done,

De hour has come fu' res',

I wants to fly, but only run—

Wait fu' me, deah Celes'.

ITCHING HEELS



PU' de peace o' my eachin' heels, set down; Don' fiddle dat chune no mo'.

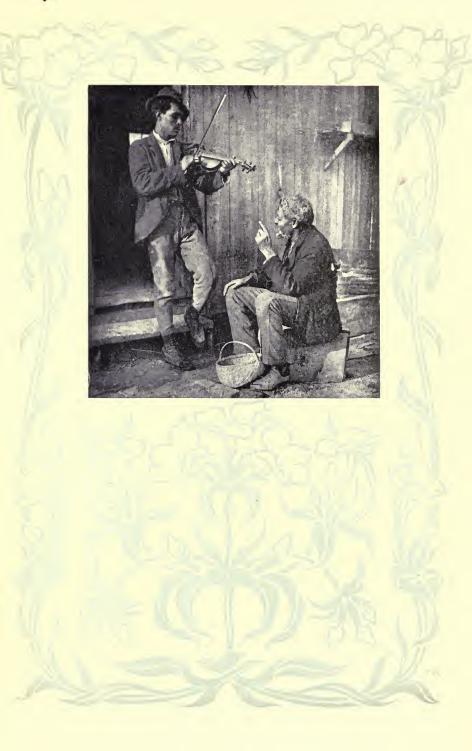
Don' you see how dat melody stuhs me up

An' baigs me to tek to de flo'?

You knows I's a Christian, good an' strong; I wusship f'om June to June;

My pra'ahs dey ah loud an' my hymns ah long:

I baig you don' fiddle dat chune.



I's a crick in my back an' a misery hyeah Whaih de j'ints's gittin' ol' an' stiff, But hit seems lak you brings me de bref o'

my youf;

W'y, I's suttain I noticed a w'iff.

Don' fiddle dat chune no mo', my chile,

Don' fiddle dat chune no mo';

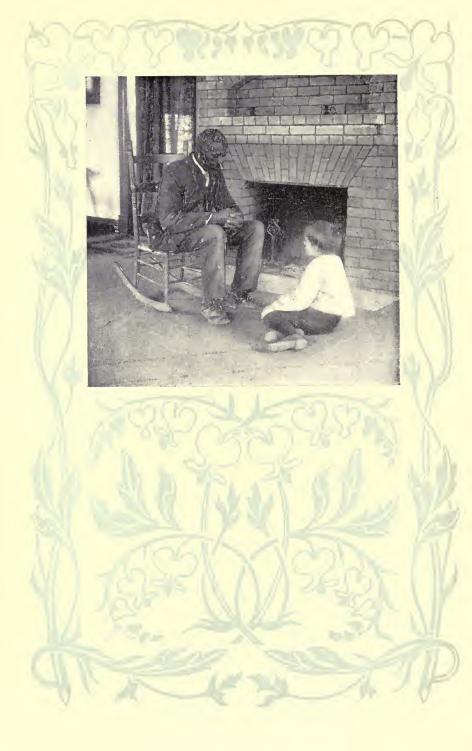
I'll git up an' taih up dis groun' fu' a mile,

An' den I'll be chu'ched fu' it, sho'.

Oh, fiddle dat chune some mo', I say, An' fiddle it loud an' fas': I's a youngstah ergin in de mi'st o' my sin; De p'esent 's gone back to de pas'. I'll dance to dat chune, so des fiddle erway; I knows how de backslidah feels: So fiddle it on 'twell de break o' de day Fu' de sake o' my eachin' heels. 64



THE BOOGAH MAN



Come a-glidin' down,
Fallin' black an' heavy
Ovah hill an' town,
Ef you listen keerful,
Keerful ez you kin,
So's you boun' to notice
Des a drappin' pin;
Den you'll hyeah a funny
Soun' ercross de lan';
Lay low; dat's de callin'
Of de Boogah Man!

Woo-oo, woo-oo!

Hyeah him ez he go erlong de way;

Woo-oo, woo-oo!

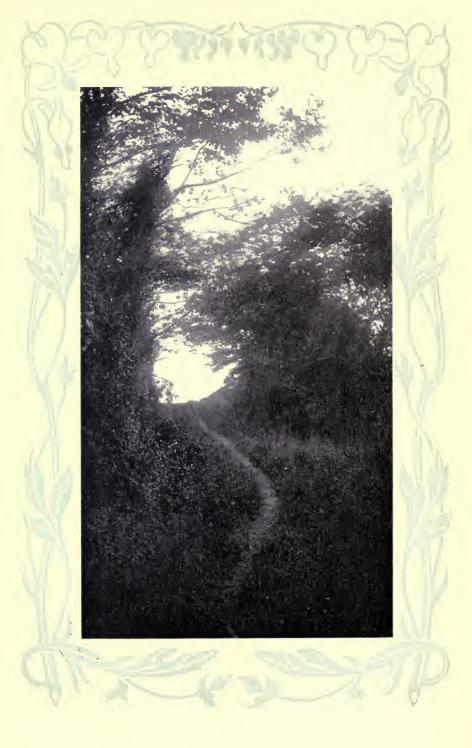
Don' you wish de night 'ud tu'n to day?

Woo-oo, woo-oo!

Hide yo' little peepers 'hind yo' han';

Woo-oo, woo-oo!

Callin' of de Boogah Man.

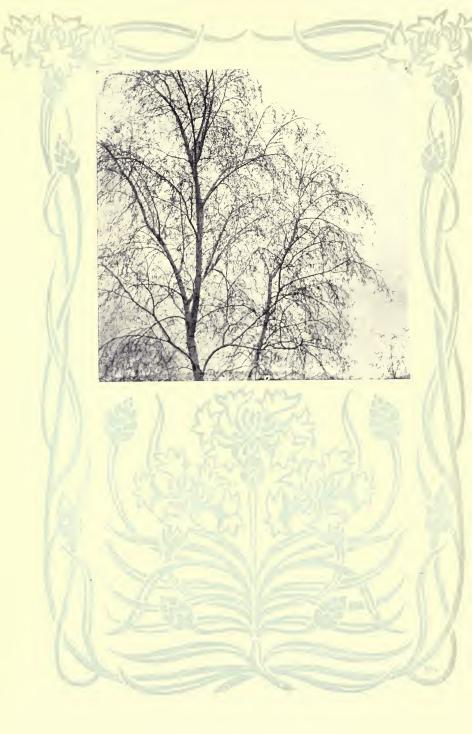


W'en de win 's a-shiverin'
Thoo de gloomy lane,
An' dey comes de patterin'
Of de evenin' rain,
W'en de owl's a-hootin',
Out daih in de wood,
Don' you wish, my honey,
Dat you had been good?
'T ain't no use to try to
Snuggle up to Dan;
Bless you, dat 's de callin'
Of de Boogah Man!

Ef you loves yo' mammy,
An' you min's yo' pap,
Ef you nevah wriggles
Outen Sukey's lap;
Ef you says yo' "Lay me"
Evah single night
'Fo' dey tucks de kivers
An' puts out de light,
Den de rain kin pattah,
Win' blow lak a fan,
But you need n' bothah
'Bout de Boogah Man!



A PLANTATION PORTRAIT



HAIN'T you see my Mandy Lou,
Is it true?

Whaih you been f'om day to day, Whaih, I say?

Dat you say you nevah seen

Dis hyeah queen

Walkin' roun' f'om fiel' to street

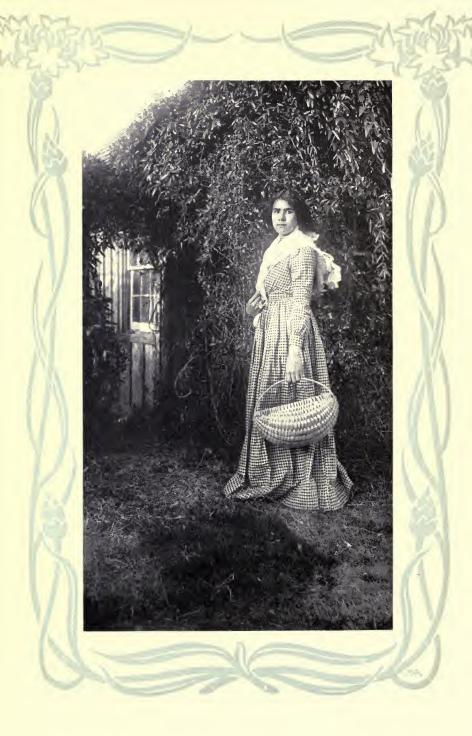
Smilin' sweet?

Slendah ez a saplin' tree; Seems to me

W'en de win' blow f'om de bay She jes' sway

Lak de reg'lar saplin' do Ef hit's grew

Straight an' graceful, 'dout a limb, Sweet an' slim.



Browner den de frush's wing,
An' she sing

Lak he mek his wa'ble ring
In de spring;

But she sholy beat de frush, Hyeah me, hush:

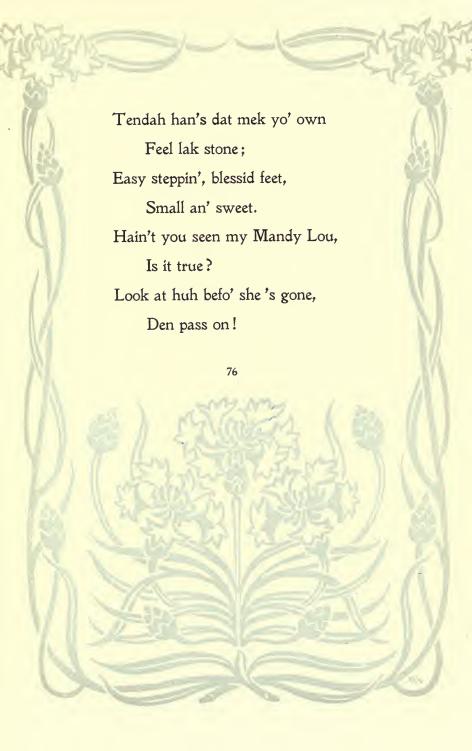
W'en she sing, huh teef kin show White ez snow.

Eyes ez big an' roun' an' bright Ez de light

Whut de moon gives in de prime Harvest time.

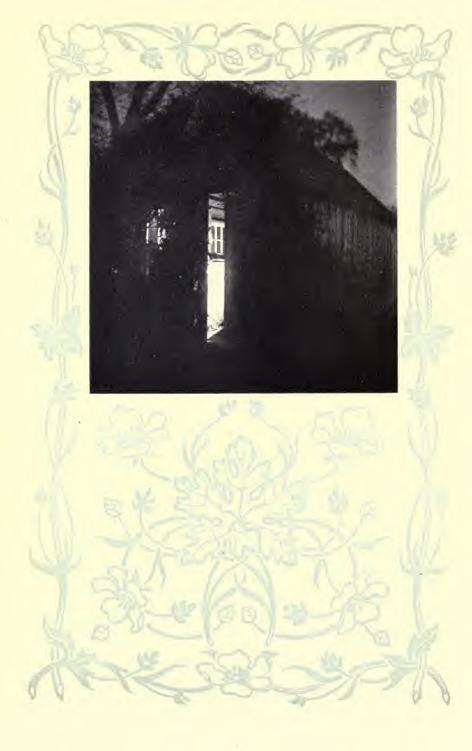
An' huh haih a woolly skein, Black an' plain,

Hol's you wid a natchul twis' Close to bliss.





"HOWDY, HONEY, HOWDY!"



D^O a-stan'in' on a jar, fiah a-shinin' thoo,

Ol' folks drowsin' 'roun' de place, wide awake is Lou,

W'en I tap, she answeh, an' I see huh 'mence to grin,

"Howdy, honey, howdy, won't you step right in?"

Den I step erpon de log layin' at de do',

Bless de Lawd, huh mammy an' huh pap's done 'menced to sno',

Now's de time, ef evah, ef I's gwine to try an' win,

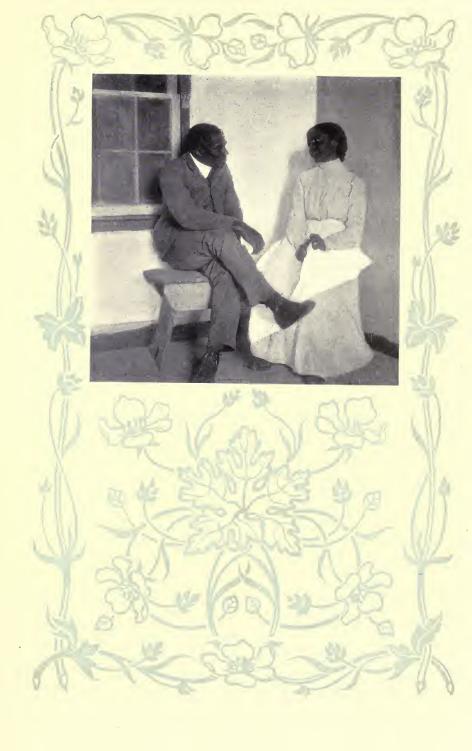
"Howdy, honey, howdy, won't you step right in?"

No use playin' on de aidge, trimblin' on de brink,

W'en a body love a gal, tell huh whut he t'ink;

W'en huh hea't is open fu' de love you gwine to gin,

Pull yo'se'f togethah, suh, an' step right in.



Sweetes' imbitation dat a body evah hyeahed,

Sweetah den de music of a love-sick mockin'-bird,

Comin' f'om de gal you loves bettah den yo' kin,

"Howdy, honey, howdy, won't you step right in?"

At de gate o' heaven w'en de storm o' life is pas',

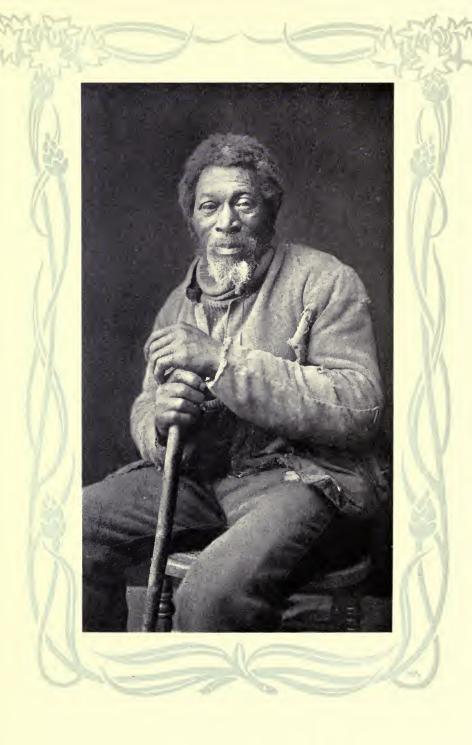
'Spec' I'll be a-stan'in', 'twell de Mastah say at las',

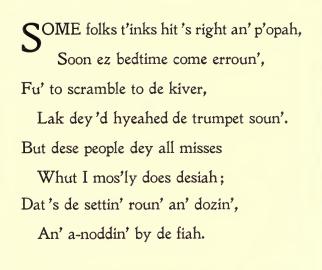
"Hyeah he stan' all weary, but he winned his fight wid sin.

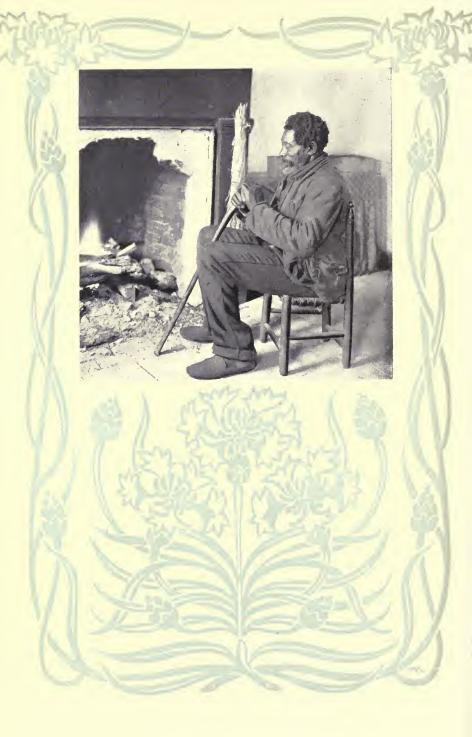
Howdy, honey, howdy, won't you step right in?"



NODDIN' BY DE FIRE







When you's tiahed out a-hoein',
Er a-followin' de plough,
Whut's de use of des a-fallin'
On yo' pallet lak a cow?
W'y, de fun is all in waitin'
In de face of all de tiah,
An' a-dozin' and a-drowsin'
By a good ol' hick'ry fiah.

Oh, you grunts an' groans an' mumbles

Case yo' bones is full o' col',

Dough you feels de joy a-tricklin'

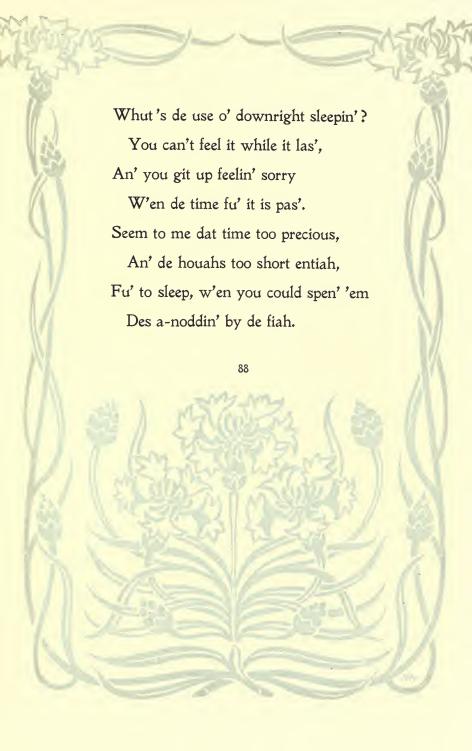
Roun' de co'nahs of yo' soul.

An' you 'low anothah minute

'S sho to git you wa'm an' dryah,

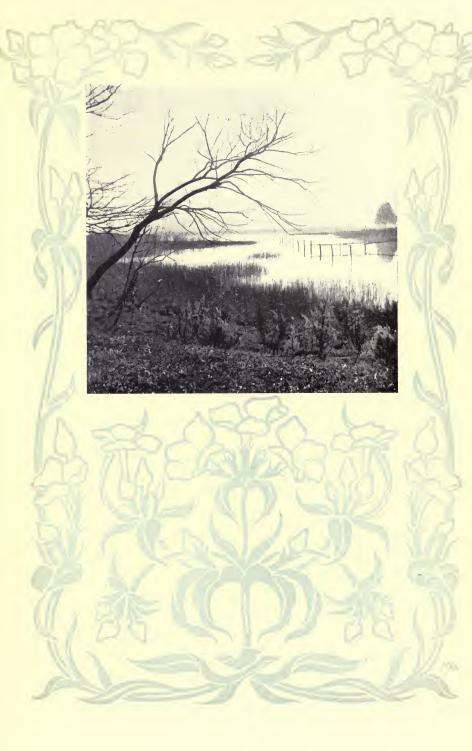
W'en you set up pas' yo' bedtime,

Case you hates to leave de fiah.

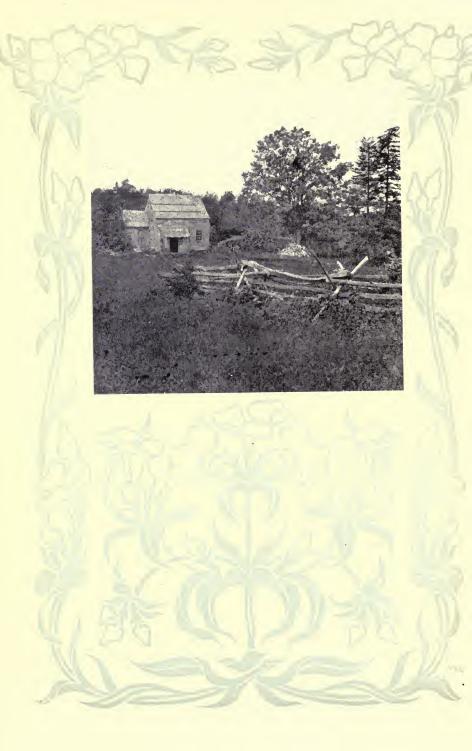




A WARM DAY IN WINTER



"SUNSHINE on de medders,
Greenness on de way;
Dat's de blessed reason
I sing all de day."
Look hyeah! Whut you axin'?
Whut meks me so merry?
'Spect to see me sighin'
W'en hit's wa'm in Febawary?



'Long de stake an' rider

Seen a robin set;

W'y, hit 'mence a-thawin',

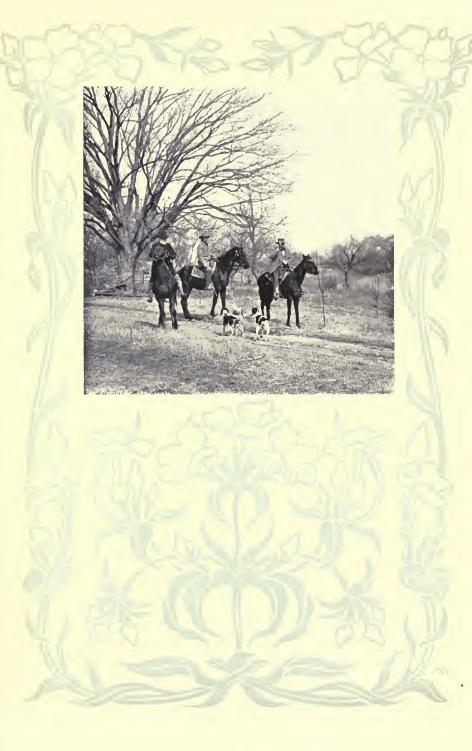
Groun' is monst'ous wet.

Den you stan' dah wond'rin',

Lookin' skeert an' stary;

I's a right to caper

W'en hit's wa'm in Febawary.



Missis gone a-drivin',

Mastah gone to shoot;

Ev'ry da'ky lazin'

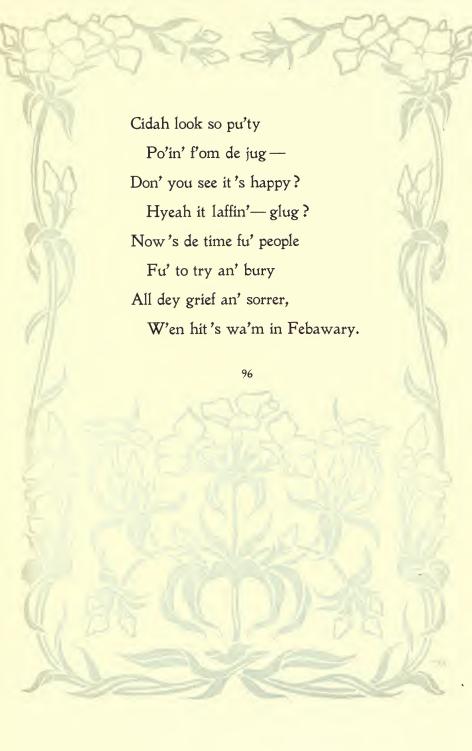
In de sun to boot.

Qua'tah 's moughty pleasant,

Hangin' 'roun' my Mary;

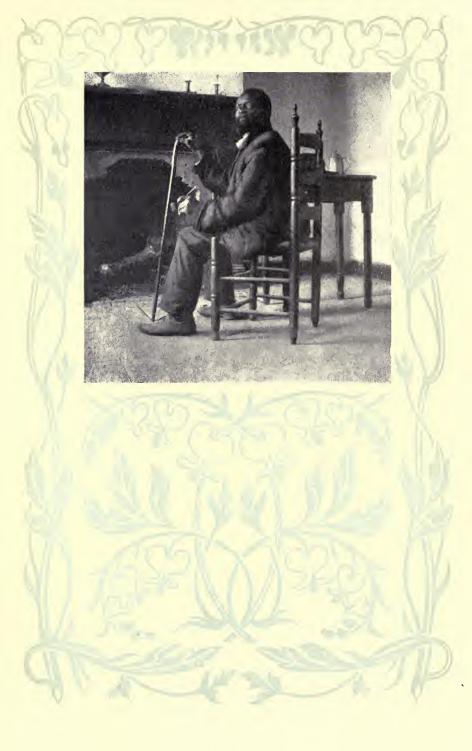
Cou'tin' boun' to prospah

W'en hit's wa'm in Febawary.





THE VISITOR



LITTLE lady at de do',

W'y you stan' dey knockin'?

Nevah seen you ac' befo'

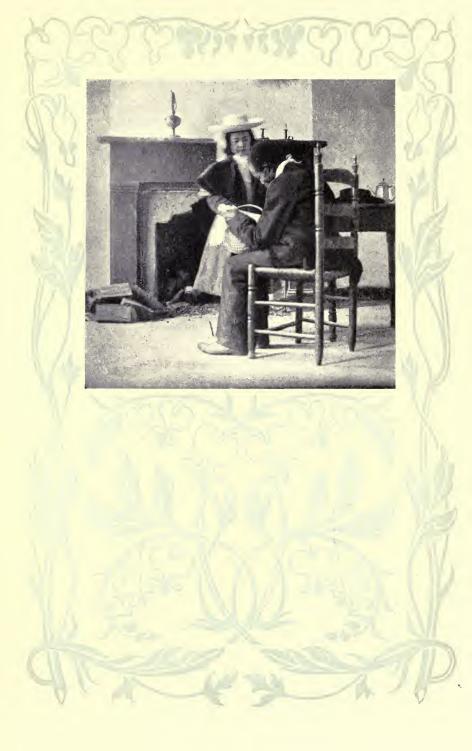
In er way so shockin'.

Don' you know de sin it is

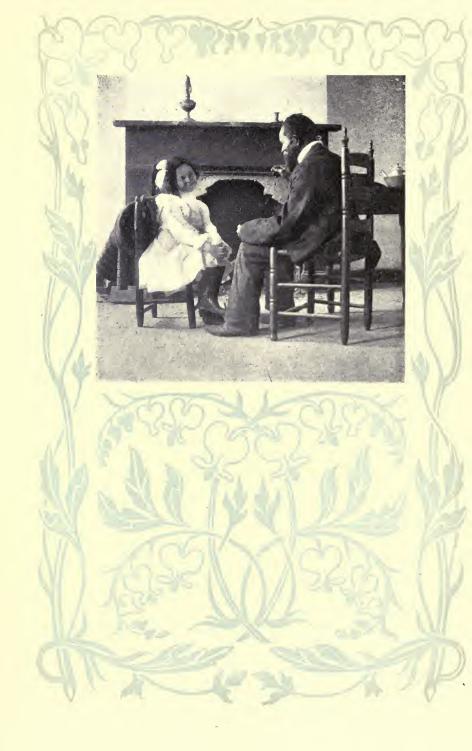
Fu' to git my temper riz

W'en I's got de rheumatiz

An' my jints is lockin'?



No, ol' Miss ain't sont you down,
Don' you tell no story;
I been seed you hangin' 'roun'
Dis hyeah te'itory.
You des come fu' me to tell
You a tale, an' I ain' — well —
Look hyeah, what is dat I smell?
Steamin' victuals? Glory!



Come in, Missy, how you do?

Come up by de fiah,

I was jokin', chile, wid you;

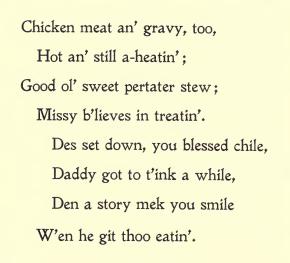
Bring dat basket nighah.

Huh uh, ain' dat lak ol' Miss,

Sen'in' me a feas' lak dis?

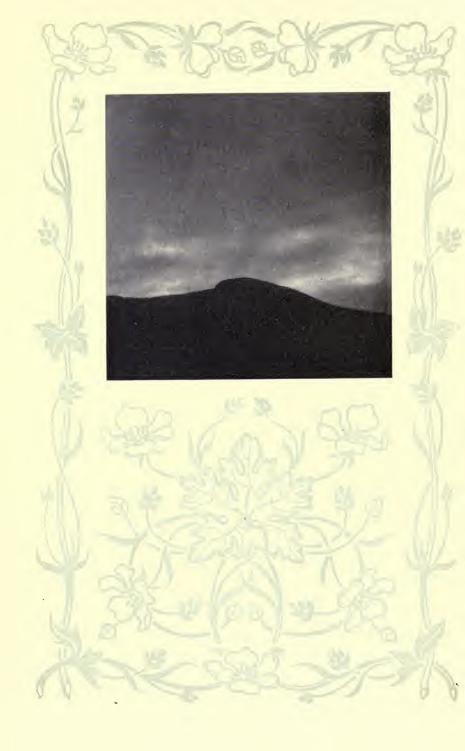
Rheumatiz cain't stop my bliss,

Case I's feelin' spryah.





MY SWEET BROWN GAL



W'EN de clouds is hangin' heavy in de sky,

An' de win's 's a-taihin' moughty vig'rous by,

I don' go a-sighin' all erlong de way;

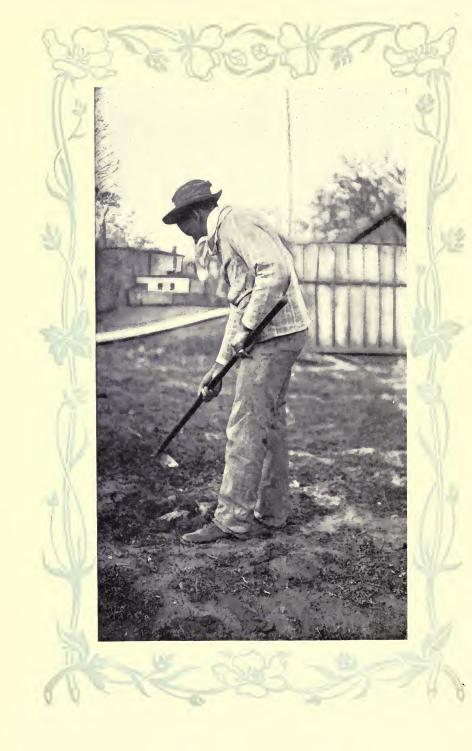
I des' wo'k a-waitin' fu' de close o' day.

Case I knows w'en evenin' draps huh shadders down,

I won' care a smidgeon fu' de weathah's frown;

Let de rain go splashin', let de thundah raih,

Dey's a happy sheltah, an' I's goin' daih.

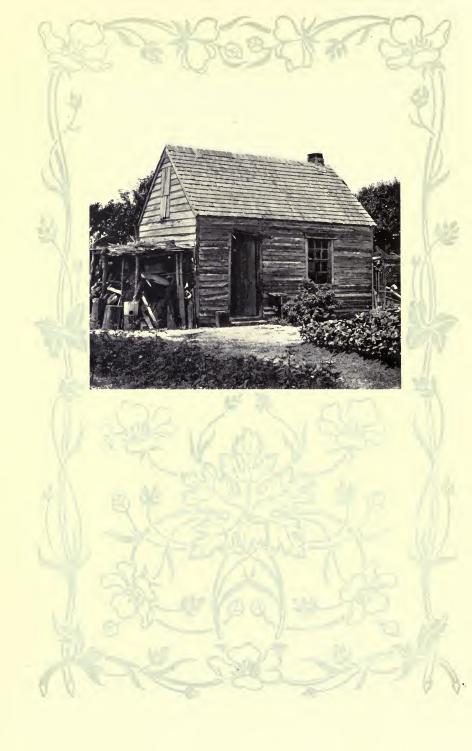


Down in my ol' cabin wa'm ez mammy's toas',

'Taters in de fiah layin' daih to roas';

No one daih to cross me, got no talkin' pal

But I's got de comp'ny o' my sweet brown gal.

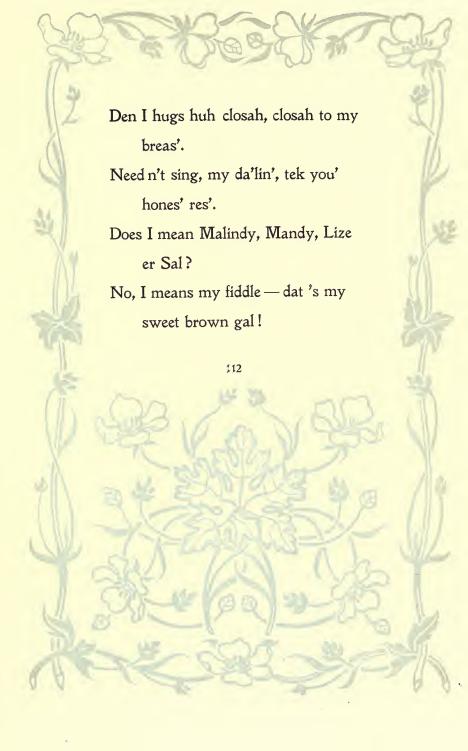


So I spen's my evenin' listenin' to huh sing,

Lak a blessid angel; how huh voice do ring!

Sweetah den a bluebird flutterin' erroun',

W'en he sees de steamin' o' de new ploughed groun'.





IN THE MORNING



LIAS! 'Lias! Bless de Lawd!

Don' you know de day's erbroad?

Ef you don' git up, you scamp,

Dey'll be trouble in dis camp.

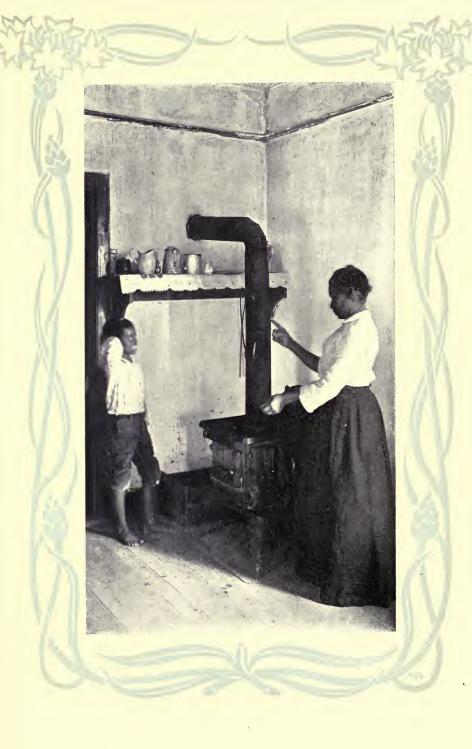
T'ink I gwine to let you sleep

W'ile I meks yo' boa'd an' keep?

Dat's a putty howdy-do—

Don' you hyeah me, 'Lias—you?

Bet ef I come crost dis flo'
You won' fin' no time to sno'.
Daylight all a-shinin' in
W'ile you sleep — w'y hit's a sin!
Ain't de can'le-light enough
To bu'n out widout a snuff,
But you go de mo'nin' thoo
Bu'nin' up de daylight too?



'Lias, don' you hyeah me call?

No use tu'nin' to'ds de wall;

I kin hyeah dat mattuss squeak;

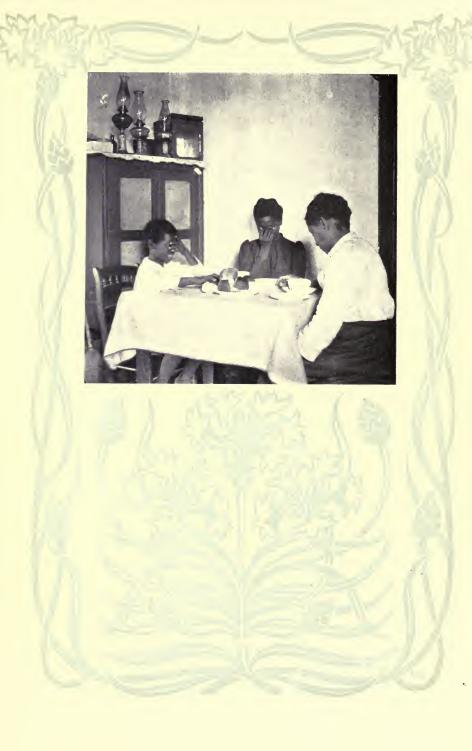
Don' you hyeah me w'en I speak?

Dis hyeah clock done struck off six—

Ca'line, bring me dem ah sticks!

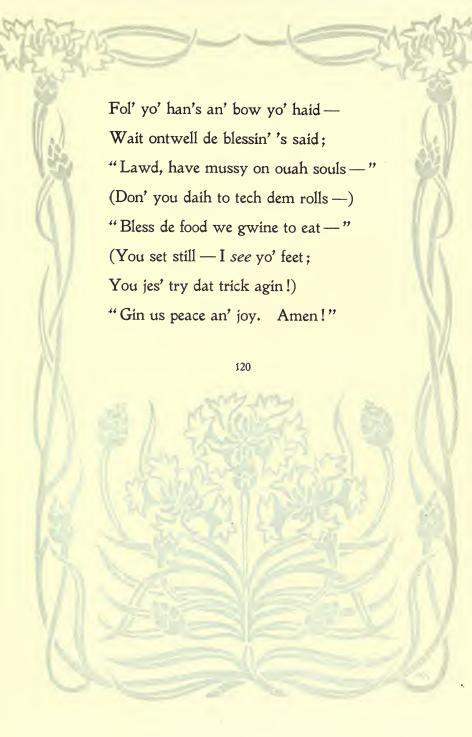
Oh, you down, suh; huh! you down—

Look hyeah, don' you daih to frown.



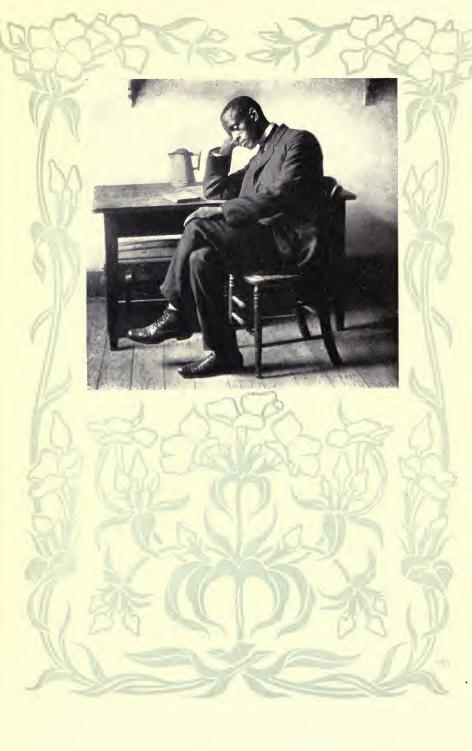
Ma'ch yo'se'f an' wash yo' face,
Don' you splattah all de place;
I got somep'n else to do,
'Sides jes' cleanin' aftah you.
T'ek dat comb an' fix yo' haid—
Looks jes' lak a feddah baid.
Look hyeah, boy, I let you see
You sha'n't roll yo' eyes at me.

Come hyeah; bring me dat ah strap!
Boy, I'll whup you 'twell you drap;'
You done felt yo'se'f too strong,
An' you sholy got me wrong.
Set down at dat table thaih;
Jes' you whimpah ef you daih!
Evah mo'nin' on dis place,
Seem lak I mus' lose my grace.





TO THE EASTERN SHORE



I'S feelin' kin' o' lonesome in my little room to-night,

An' my min's done los' de minutes an' de miles,

W'ile it teks me back a-flyin' to de country of delight,

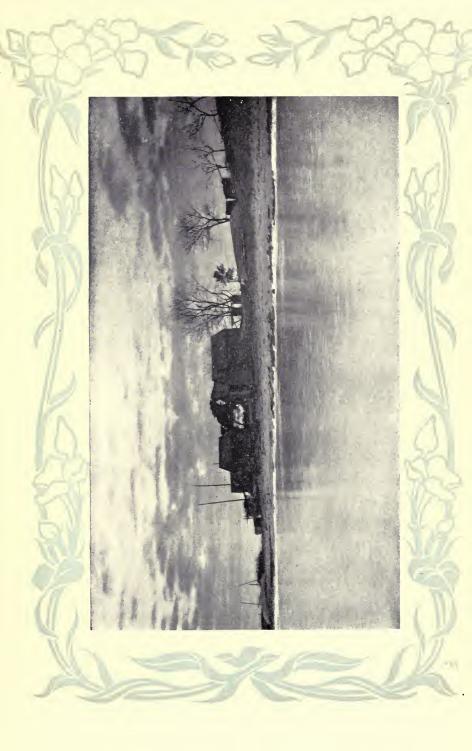
Whaih de Chesapeake goes grumblin' er wid smiles.

Oh, de ol' plantation's callin' to me, Come, come back,

Hyeah's de place fu' you to labouh an' to res',

Fu' my sandy roads is gleamin' w'ile de city ways is black;

Come back, honey, case yo' country home is bes'.



I know de moon is shinin' down erpon de Eastern sho',

An' de bay 's a-sayin' "Howdy" to de lan';

An' de folks is all a-settin' out erroun' de cabin do',

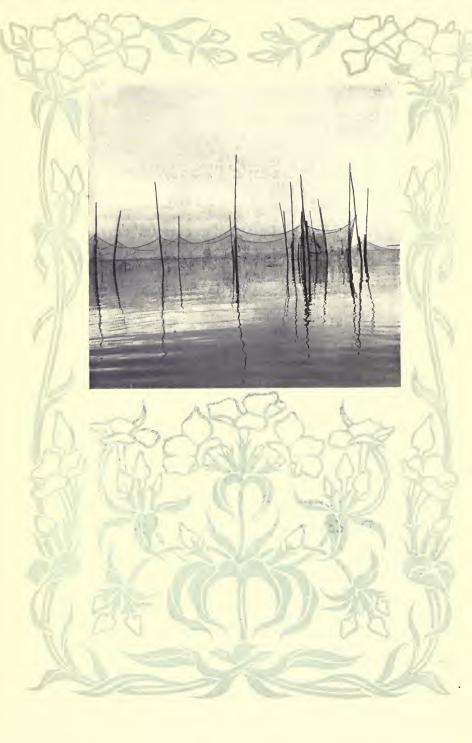
Wid dey feet a-restin' in de silvah san';

An' de ol' plantation 's callin' to me, Come, oh, come,

F'om de life dat 's des' a-waihin' you erway,

F'om de trouble an' de bustle, an' de agernizin' hum

Dat de city keeps ergoin' all de day.



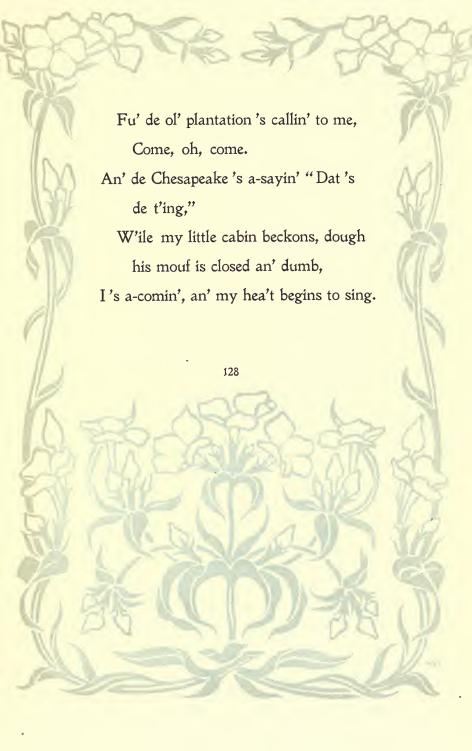
I's tiahed of de city, tek me back to Sandy Side,

Whaih de po'est ones kin live an' play an' eat;

Whaih we draws a simple livin' f'om de fo'est an' de tide,

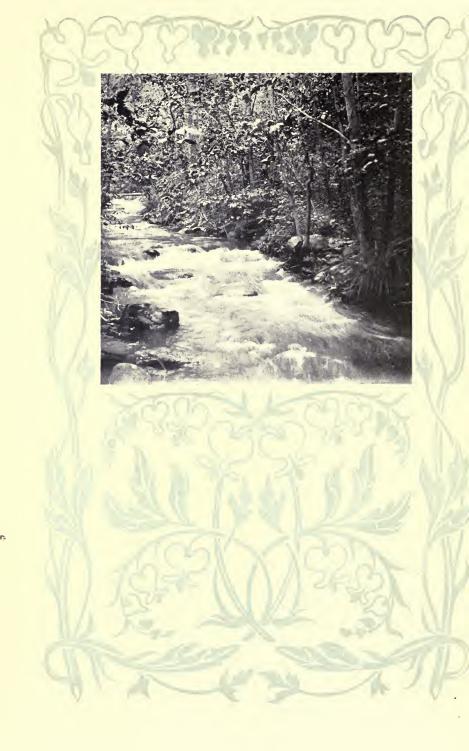
An' de days ah faih, an' evah night is sweet.







WADIN' IN DE CREEK



DAYS git wa'm an' wa'mah,
School gits mighty dull,
Seems lak dese hyeah teachahs
Mus' feel mussiful.

Hookey's wrong, I know it

Ain't no gent'man's trick;

But de aihs a-callin',

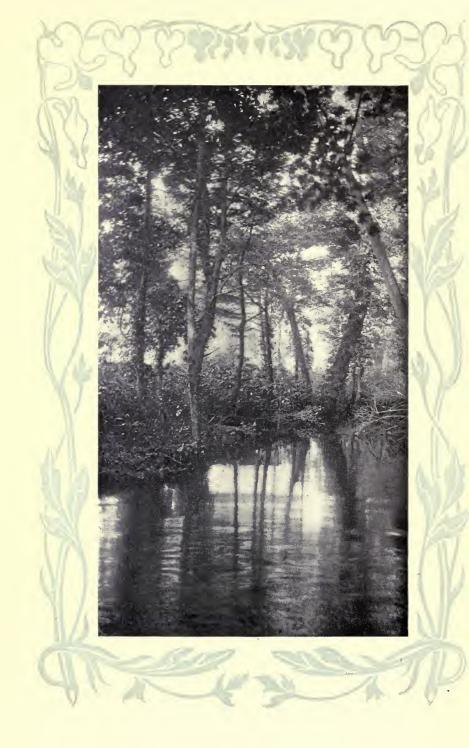
"Come on to de crick."

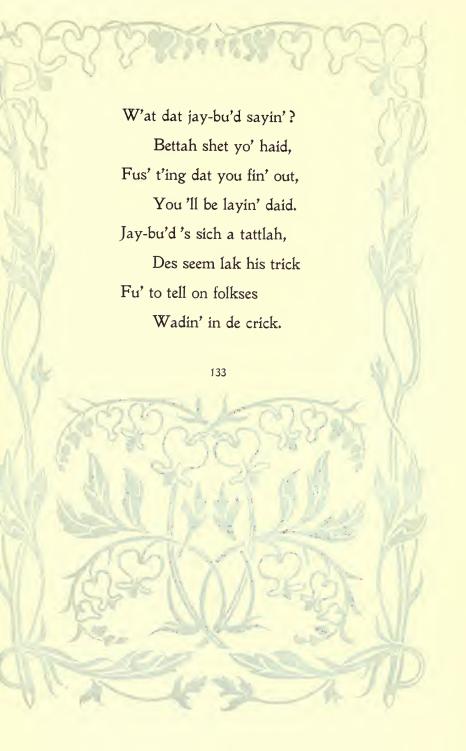
Dah de watah 's gu'glin'
Ovah shiny stones,

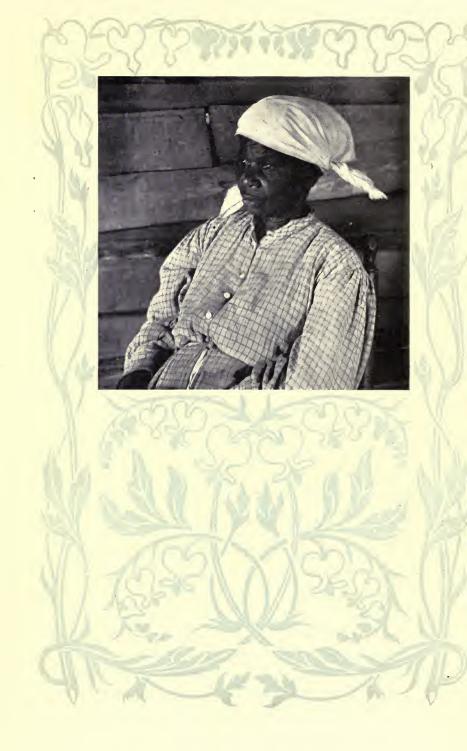
Des hit's ve'y singin'
Seems to soothe yo' bones.

W'at's de use o' waitin',
Go on good an' quick:

Dain't no fun lak dis hyeah
Wadin' in de crick.







Willer boughs a-bendin',

Hidin' of de sky,

Wavin' kin' o' frien'ly

Ez de win' go by,

Elum trees a-shinin',

Dahk an' green an' thick,

Seem to say, "I see yo'

Wadin' in de crick."

But de trees don' chattah,

Dey des look an' sigh

Lak hit 's kin' o' peaceful

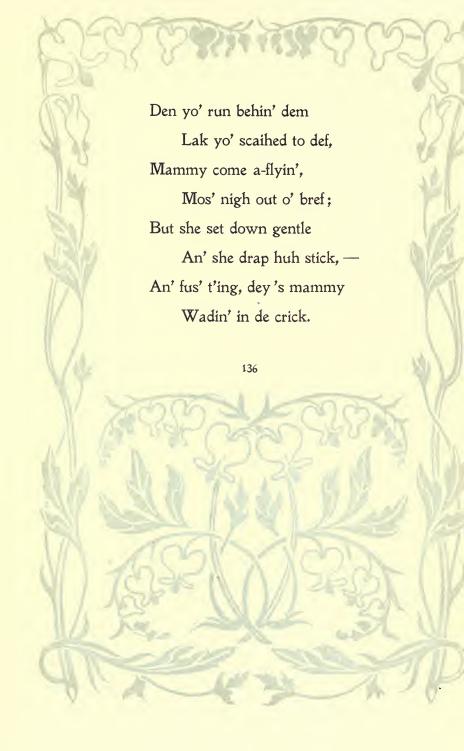
Des a-bein' nigh,

An' you t'ank yo' Mastah

Dat dey trunks is thick

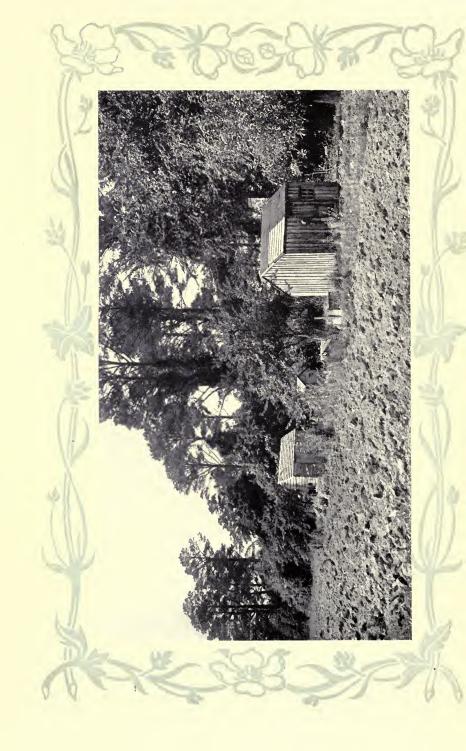
W'en yo' mammy fin's yo'

Wadin' in de crick.





'LONG TO'DS NIGHT



DAIH'S a moughty soothin' feelin'
Hits a dahky man,
'Long to'ds night.
W'en de row is mos' nigh ended.

W'en de row is mos' nigh ended,
Den he stops to fan,
'Long to'ds night.

De blue smoke f'om his cabin is a-callin' to him, "Come;"

He smell de bacon cookin', an' he hyeah de fiah hum:

An' he 'mence to sing, 'dough wo'kin' putty nigh done made him dumb,

'Long to'ds night.



Wid his hoe erpon his shouldah
Den he goes erlong,
'Long to'ds night.
An' he keepin' time a-steppin'
Wid a little song,
'Long to'ds night.

De restin'-time 's a-comin', an' de time to drink an' eat;
A baby 's toddlin' to'ds him on hits little dusty feet,
An' a-goin' to'ds his cabin, an' his suppah's moughty sweet,
'Long to'ds night.





Daih his Ca'line min' de kettle, Rufus min' de chile, 'Long to'ds night; An' de sweat roll down his forred, Mixin' wid his smile, 'Long to'ds night. He toss his piccaninny, an' he hum a little chune: De wo'kin' all is ovah, an' de suppah comin' soon; De wo'kin' time 's Decembah, but de restin' time is June, 'Long to'ds night. 143

Dey's a kin' o' doleful feelin', Hits a tendah place, 'Long to'ds night; Dey's a moughty glory in him Shinin' thoo his face. 'Long to'ds night. De cabin's lak de big house, an' de fiah's lak de sun; His wife look moughty lakly, an' de chile de puttiest one; W'y, hit 's blessid, jes' a-livin' w'en a body's wo'k is done. 'Long to'ds night. 144



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